

iana, a species hitherto regarded as exclusively Mediterranean. It would be very interesting to see whether the individuals with pluri-seriate suckers and simple ink-bag agree in other characters with *S. Oweniana*, or whether they represent in the Atlantic a parallel form related to *S. Oweniana*, as *S. scandica* is to *S. Petersi*.—*Bulletin Scientifique*, 1889, pp. 171-175.

Note on Mr. Williams's Paper on a new Species of Ampullaria.

By EDGAR A. SMITH.

In the last number of these 'Annals' Mr. J. W. Williams, in his "Note on a new Species of *Ampullaria* from the La Plata," observes:—"I have, in company with Mr. Edgar Smith, examined the species belonging to this genus which are in the National Collection, and not found one to which this present shell could be referred."

This statement, although partly correct, but published without my knowledge, seems to imply that I also am of opinion that the Museum does not contain the species in question.

Of this I am not at all certain, for I well remember that Mr. Williams's study of the Museum series was very brief—nor did he examine the South-American *Ampullariæ* contained in the d'Orbigny collection.

It seems to me improper to cite my name apparently in support of the validity of the supposed new species without warning or permission. A museum official in assisting a visitor or student does not, without a distinct request, pledge himself that any species brought for comparison is or is not contained in the Museum!

Acanthodian Fishes from the Devonian of Canada.

By A. SMITH WOODWARD.

The known geographical distribution of the extinct Acanthodian fishes is gradually becoming extended by their discovery both in Canada and in Siberia; but the only genus hitherto definitely determined outside the European area is the typical *Acanthodes*. It is therefore interesting to note that fragmentary evidence of a remarkable generic type, first distinguished in the Lower Old Red Sandstone of Forfarshire, has lately been described and figured* from a corresponding horizon at Campbellton, New Brunswick; and the circumstance seems worthy of a brief special notice, since the relationships of the fossils in question are misinterpreted and unrecognized by their discoverer. These specimens are triangular dermal spines, more or less elongated, laterally compressed, marked with longitudinal ridges

* J. F. Whiteaves, "Illustrations of the Fossil Fishes of the Devonian Rocks of Canada.—Part II.," Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada, vol. vi. sec. iv. (1889), pp. 95, 96, pl. x. figs. 3, 4.

and furrows, and exhibiting some indications of posterior denticles; no smooth base of insertion is distinguishable, and the variation in relative length and breadth in the fossils is very striking. Three of the stouter examples figured are named *Ctenacanthus latispinosus*, and compared with the so-called *Ctenacanthus ornatus*, Ag., while a fourth spine, more slender, is recorded as *Homacanthus gracilis*. If, however, these fossils be compared with the spines of the Acanthodian *Climatius*, as elucidated by Egerton* and Powrie†, there will be observed to exist the closest agreement in every respect: the shape and ornamentation of the spines is similar; posterior denticles are known in certain of the spines of at least one Scottish species‡; and there is no more variation among the Canadian fossils than is exhibited in the dermal armature of a single individual of any species. *Climatius*—or some genus undistinguishable from *Climatius* by its spines—thus occurs in the Lower Devonian of the New World exactly as in the Old, and the Canadian species will at present retain the provisional name of *Climatius latispinosus*.

Note on Palinostus, Spence Bate.

By Prof. T. JEFFERY PARKER, F.R.S.

In Mr. Spence Bate's Report on the Macrura of the 'Challenger,' which has just reached me, I find that the author proposes to place certain species of *Palinurus*, viz. *P. Lalandii*, *P. frontalis*, and *P. Hügelii*, in a new genus *Palinostus*.

I should like to point out that this group is precisely equivalent to my subgenus *Jasus*. Nearly six years ago I proposed to restrict the name *Palinurus* to those of the "Langoustes ordinaires" in which the rostrum is vestigial and the stridulating organ present, and to place those in which the rostrum is well developed and provided with "clasping processes" and in which there is no stridulating organ in a new subgenus *Jasus*. This name has therefore priority over *Palinostus*.

My paper on this subject is contained in the sixteenth volume (1883) of that little-known publication 'The Transactions of the New-Zealand Institute,' and is referred to in the 'Zoological Record' for 1884.

Dunedin, N. Z.,
May 28, 1889.

* Sir P. Egerton, "Figs. and Descrips. Brit. Organic Remains" (Mem. Geol. Surv. 1861), dec. x. pp. 65-68, pl. viii.

† J. Powrie, Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc. vol. xx. (1864), pp. 420-423; also Trans. Edinb. Geol. Soc. vol. i. (1870), pp. 295-297, pl. xiii. fig. 10, pl. xiv. figs. 11-13.

‡ *Climatius uncinatus*, Powrie.